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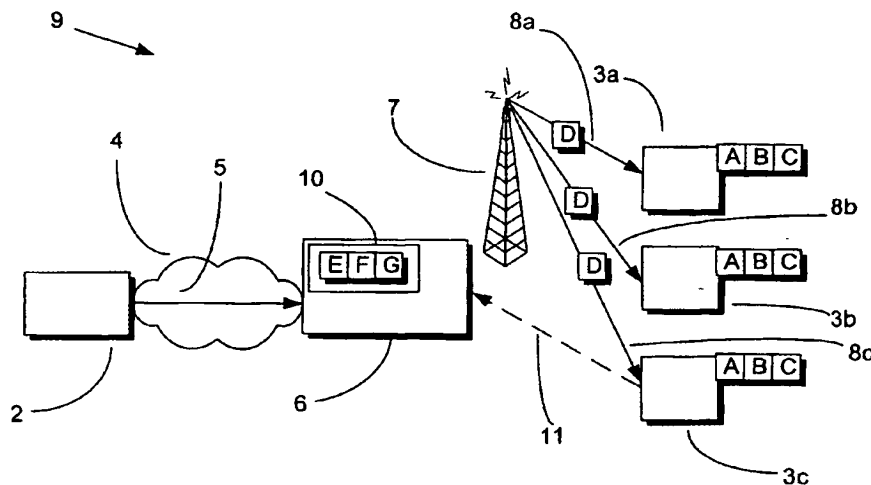
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(54) Title: MULTICAST DATA TRANSFER



(57) Abstract: An edge router (6) for multicast data transfer comprises a cache (10). In response to a request for a file from a host (3a), the router (6) retrieves the file from a content provider (2). The file, comprising data packets A-G, is stored in the cache (10) before transmission to host (3a) to allow the receipt of requests for the same file from other hosts (3b, 3c). A timer is activated to count down through a predetermined waiting period T. A file delivery group is defined, comprising host (3a). Any other hosts (3b, 3c) located in the same cell as host (3a), requesting the same file during period T are added to the group. When a predetermined number of requests have been received or, alternatively, when the waiting period T expires, the file is retrieved from the cache (10) and forwarded to the hosts (3a, 3b, 3c), in the group.

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